J. Edgar Hoover F Post 4/30/66

FBI Director Backs Warren

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Friday all available evidence indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy," Hoover said in a statement.

A number of books, articles and statements recently have raised questions about the validity of the findings of the Warren Commission, which named Oswald as the assassin and said he acted alone. The FBI turned over all its own findings to the commission.

Hoover said that although the critics have every right to state their views, they "should show more regard for the facts on record. They have ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others, and expressed pure speculation as truth." The statement was requested by the Washington Evening Star and later was made available to other news media.

Hoover noted that some of the critics allege, among other things, that there is a conflict between portions of two FBI reports and the official autopsy report regarding the wounds found in Kennedy's body.

But he said, "while there is a difference in the information reported by the FBI and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict."

Hoover said the FBI reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians before all the facts were known. The ultimate findings of the examination, he said, are contained in the autopsy report.

Hoover said two FBI agents were present at Bethesda Naval Hospital when the autopsy was performed Nov. 22, 1963.

The agents reported that Dr. James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, "Located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullet or point of exit."

Hoover said that unknown to the agents the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body.

The morning following the assassination, Hoover said, Humes contacted physicians who had examined Kennedy at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Tex., the previous day. They confirmed Humes' assumption that a tracheotomy had been performed using a bullet hole as the point of incision.

Examination of Kennedy's clothing at the FBI laboratory, Hoover said, "revealed a small hole in the back of his coat and shirt and a slit characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the front of the shirt one inch below the collar button."

Hoover added: "These findings clearly indicated the examining physician's early observation that the bullet penetrated only a short distance into the president's back probably was in error."

This early observation had been included in an FBI report of Dec. 9, 1963, and another reference was made to it in a report of Jan. 13, 1964.

The FBI and the Warren Commission each asked for and received a copy of the official autopsy report on Dec. 23, 1963. Hoover added that since the FBI knew the Warren Commission had a copy of the official autopsy, its contents were not repeated in an FBI report.

Hoover also took issue with those who have said that the FBI altered films of the assassi-

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nation taken by one Abraham Zapruder. "This is totally false," Hoover said. "The FBI never had the original Zapruder film in its possession — it was purchased by a national magazine." Hoover said the FBI obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced it for the commission, which has since given it to the National Archives.